

Remarks

Claims 1-24, 30, and 35 are pending in this application. Applicants have amended claims 24, 30, and 35 and cancelled claims 25-29 and 31-34 to clarify the present invention. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application.

The Examiner has allowed claims 1-23. The Examiner indicated that claims 27, 34, and 35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have amended claim 30 to include the subject matter of claim 34 and have amended claim 35 to recite the subject matter of claim 30, from which it depended. Applicants have amended claim 24 to include subject matter of claim 26 and 27 with the exception of both the upper wall and lower wall include at least one wave-shaped crease that extends in a transverse direction of the hose. Applicants submit that all pending claims are allowable.

The Examiner rejected claims 24, 25, and 28-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 5,129,171 to Arbter et al. The Examiner rejected claims 24, 26, 28-30, 32, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by German patent 37 33 886 to Arbter et al. The Examiner rejects claims 24 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by European patent 508,211 to Berg et al.

None of the cited references discloses a structure that includes a hose having at least one wave-shaped crease extending in a transverse direction of the hose in at least one of an upper wall and a lower wall. As a result, none of the references discloses the present invention as

recited in amended independent claim 24. For a valid rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102, a reference must disclose all elements of the invention recited in the rejected claim. Therefore, the present invention as recited in claim 24 is not anticipated by any of the references.

In view of the above, the references relied upon in the office action do not disclose patentable features of the present invention. Therefore, the references relied upon in the office action do not anticipate the present invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections based upon the cited references.

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this case and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance.

If an interview would advance the prosecution of this case, Applicants urge the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge fee insufficiency and credit overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/8/05



Eric J. Franklin, Reg. No. 37,134
Attorney for Applicants
Venable LLP
575 7th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004
Telephone: 202 344-4936